Amendments To The Specification:

Please amend paragraphs [00046] and [00063] of the originally filed clean substitute specification as follows:

[00046] Figure 1 shows a first exemplary embodiment of the heat shield according to the invention in the form of a section of an axially symmetrical heat shield for an annular combustion chamber of a gas turbine. The figure shows two ceramic heat shield elements 1, 2, which are fixed to an axially symmetrical support structure and abut each other in the axial direction A of the support structure 3. Support structure 3 may be the structure sought to be protected from the heat. For example, support structure 3 may be the wall of a combustion chamber, or a flame tube. In order not to impede the thermal expansion of the heat shield elements 1, 2 during operation of the gas turbine combustion chamber, the heat shield elements are arranged such that a small gap remains in each instance between two heat shield elements 1, 2. If the heat shield elements were to push up against each other due to thermal expansion, this could lead to stresses in the heat shield elements 1, 2 and thus to early wear or even to fracture of a heat shield element 1, 2.

[00063] In the exemplary embodiment of an element retainer 25 according to the invention shown in figure 10 surface elements 32 are arranged on the sides of the engagement plate 26, the surface normal of which points in the direction of expansion of the groove 8, i.e. along the longitudinal axis of the groove, when the engagement plate 26 is engaged in the groove 8. As the surface normals of the stop surfaces 29, 30 also point in the direction of expansion of the groove 8, the surface elements 32 form counter-surfaces for stopping at the stop surfaces 29, 30 of the studs.